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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Virginia Historical Society

AT ITS

ANNUAL MEETING

HELD IN THE

HOUSE OF THE SOCIETY

ON

JANUARY 27TH, 1912.

WILLIAM ELLIS JONES' SONS, INC.,
PRINTERS TO THE SOCIETY,
RICHMOND, VA.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Virginia Historical Society

IN

ANNUAL MEETING HELD JANUARY 27TH, 1912.

The Annual Meeting (which had been necessarily postponed) was held at the Society's House, 707 East Franklin Street, on Saturday, January 27, 1912.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P. M. with President McCabe in the chair.

President McCabe had accepted an invitation from the Executive Committee to deliver the annual address, but it had been decided that the address should be delivered at some later date.

The first business was reading the

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

It is as follows:

To the Members of the Virginia Historical Society:

I have the honor to submit the following report, giving a *résumé* of the work of the Society and a detailed statement of its financial condition for the year ending November 30th, 1911, which report has been duly examined, verified, and unanimously approved by the Executive Committee.

While it is true that no specially noteworthy developments have marked the history of the Society during the year, it must prove most gratifying to our members to learn that much work of permanent historical value has been successfully accomplished, that our membership, notwithstanding an appalling death-roll, has grown to 758, an increase of nine since our last Annual Report, and that the year has been in many directions a most prosperous one.

To the mournful losses caused by death must be added those of delinquents, who, in accordance with the wise, if drastic, policy of your "Executive Committee," have been dropped from our rolls. The Society has been long suffering in respect to these delinquents, and none of them can deny that they have been treated with the greatest consideration and most delicate forbearance.

We Virginians are very old-fashioned folk, ever ready to give generous consideration to any reasonable—nay, even plausible—excuse for non-payment of dues, but the ugly fact remains that we have patiently borne upon our rolls for the past four to five years no small number of people, otherwise regarded as reputable, who, with cool complacency, have accepted our valuable publications, yet who, quite as complacently, have utterly ignored the modest bills for dues sent to them at regular intervals.

There are a few of these names still left on our rolls, because of their vague, yet eager, promises to pay at an early day, but your Executive Committee, wearied out by their shameless lack of sense of obligation (to employ the most euphemistic term), has resolved to give no more warnings, but to thoroughly purge our rolls of these pseudo 'lovers of our Old Dominion."

It is extremely distasteful to have thus, for the third time, to draw public attention to these delinquents who apparently take no shame in disregarding their honest debts; but it is only proper that the whole Society shall know the facts of the case. Such offenders cannot plead ignorance, for they know quite as well as any of us that our publications are everywhere, at

home and abroad, recognized as of prime authority, that money *must* be found for copying, printing, and for the salaries of our faithful and hard-worked officials, yet who manifest an unblushing readiness to accept these publications without payment of their annual dues, on which this Society is, in chief measure, dependent for its present support and future success.

It is pleasant to report, after this rather mortifying statement touching these delinquents, that the payment of annual dues has been much prompter this year than it was in 1910, and that the "Permanent Fund" has been increased $500. The financial condition of the Society is, therefore, at present very satisfactory, though additional generosity to our "Permanent Fund" would be most welcome. It is the most earnest desire of your Executive Committee to secure for the Society an endowment large enough to make it independent of fluctuations of membership, and to enable it, through an assured income, to broaden and improve its work in many directions.

The Treasurer's Report, in detail, is as follows:

Treasurer's Report.

Balance in Bank November 30th, 1910, (including $500.00 belonging to the Permanent Fund)		$ 550 72
Receipts.		
Annual Dues	$3,134 75	
Life Members	200 00	
Interest	574 00	
Sale of publications	17 00	
Sale of Magazines	120 13	
Rent, $150.00; Advertising, $25.00	175 00	
		4,220 90
		$4,771 62
Disbursements.		
Salaries	$1,799 96	
Wages	295 00	
Postage and Express	107 50	
Insurance	117 00	
Magazines and other printing	1,123 15	

Sundry Bills	$ 207 71	
Payment (sent by mistake) returned	5 00	
Exchange	20	
Repairs	47 75	
Books, binding and stationery	80 75	
		$3,784 02
Balance in bank November 30th, 1911		987 60
		$4,771 62

Permanent Fund.

3% certificate of deposit	$ 1,000 00
Mortgage, 5%, running three years from January 19, 1909	1,000 00
Mortgage, 5%, running three years from July 11, 1910	5,500 00
Fifteen (15) shares of stock in the Citizens Bank of Norfolk, Va., paying 12% dividend, estimated value	3,600 00
Total	$11,100 00

In accordance with an order of the Executive Committee, the Treasurer presents the following Tabulated Statement, showing the sources from which the Permanent Fund is derived. What is termed the "Society's Fund" comprises the amount which the Committee has been able to save each year out of the ordinary revenues of the Society:

The Virginia Sturdivant McCabe Fund, given by the President of the Society in memory of his grand-daughter, Virginia Sturdivant McCabe, born February 1st, 1906, died August 11th, 1909	$ 500 00
Daughters of the American Revolution Fund	100 00
Byam K. Stevens Fund	600 00
Edward Wilson James Fund	3,600 00
Society's Fund	6,300 00
Total	$11,100 00

To which must always be added the gift of the house, 707 East Franklin Street, the War-Time Home of General R. E. Lee, by the heirs of the late John Stewart, Esq., of Brook Hill, Henrico county, Va. The Permanent Fund is reported as it was at the date of the President's report. Since the close of the fiscal year $1,000 has been taken from the Current Account and invested for the Permanent Fund in a 3% certificate of deposit.

It is expected that at an early date this amount will be invested in a more profitable way.

Additions to the Library.

The additions to the Library in books and pamphlets number five hundred and thirty-five. First in importance may be named the valuable publications issued by the different departments of the United States Government, and, second, those of various Historical and Genealogical Societies at home and abroad, that come to us by "exchange." To these, we have been enabled to add, through purchase or by gift, no inconsiderable number of books of permanent value, all dealing with history, biography, genealogy, and cognate subjects.

The donors of books to whom we wish to make grateful acknowledgment are: Messrs. W. F. Adams, William G. Stanard, George C. Mosely, J. G. Leach, Carl and E. B. Stokel, Leon Hühner, A. C. Quisenbery, W. W. Baker, C. C. Magruder, Jr., Albert Matthews, W. H. Reed, Lincoln N. Kinnicut, Chas. C. Adams, Stuart C. Gibboney, Ro. H. McCormick, James M. Hunnewell, J. H. Whitty, Wm. W. Harrison, J. Staunton Moore, Walter Adams, E. W. B. Taylor, Jos. C. Clayton, John W. Williams, Fred. A. Woods, Wm. Wallace Tooker, Jacob Heffelfinger, Justin H. Smith, Isaac Davenport, Jr., A. A. Hart; Doctors Albert P. Francione and Bennett W. Green; Professors J. S. Ames, Beverly W. Bond, J. F. Jameson, James M. Garnett, James E. Winston, and A. J. Morrison; Captain Jennings C. Wise, General Holdworth O. Collins, Hon. Charles F. Adams, Hon. Chas. J. Faulkner, Judge Morris S. Barratt, Rt. Rev. A. R. Graves, D. D., Rev. C. H. Ryland, D. D., Rev. B. L. Price, D. D.; Mesdames Virginia Armistead Garber, Jas. M. Langton, Alice T. Connally, Charles Hyde, Miss Stella P. Hardy and Miss Anne B. Hyde; the Libraries of the State of New York, of the Virginia Military Institute, of the State of South Carolina, and the New Bedford Free Public Library; the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission, the Trustees of the Henry Whitfield House, Guilford, Conn., the Royal Society of Canada, the Council of the P. E. Diocese of Virginia, the New Jersey "Society of the Cincinnati," the "Ancient and Honor-

able Artillery Company" of Boston (Mass.), the General Committee of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the "Bunker Hill Monument Association," the "Confederate Memorial Literary Society" of Richmond, the University of Harvard, and the "Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Virginia."

These books and pamphlets have been catalogued and arranged as well as our meager unoccupied space will admit. But though, owing to our steadily increasing annual additions, we are sadly in need of adequate room for the proper disposition of these valuable accessions, every book and pamphlet (through our system of minute card-catalogues) is readily accessible, and can within a few minutes be put into the hands of the general reader or of the more determined student. Thus far, the only marked inconvenience experienced from this lack of space, has been in regard to our bound files of newspapers, which have perforce, to be arranged in piles wherever room can be found for them. Even in this case, all that is required on the part of readers is a somewhat more patient waiting in order to gain access to them.

The placing of miscellaneous pamphlets in "magazine binders" has been carried on as heretofore. At the time of our last Annual Report, there were 223 of these "binders" on our shelves. Since then, there has been an increase of twenty, containing between 150 and 200 pamphlets. Of course, some of the miscellaneous publications that come to us are too large for the "binders," and have to be suitably bound. Almost all of our historical and genealogical "exchanges" are regularly bound in cloth, as each volume is completed.

Gifts.

The most notable gift of the year has been a large collection of topographical maps (chiefly of counties in Virginia) made in 1862-1864 by Confederate engineer officers under the direction and supervision of Major-General J. F. Gilmore, Chief of the Engineer Corps of the Confederate States, reckoned both in the Federal and Confederate armies as one of the ablest

military engineers in either service. These maps, sixty-five in number, all exquisitely executed, were munificently presented to the Society by Mrs. Louisa Gilmore Minis, of Savannah, Georgia, a lady of rare culture and ardent patriotism, who, having declined a large sum offered for them by the United States Government, donated them to our Society as a memorial of her gallant and distinguished father.

Map-cases have been ordered for these veritable treasures, which are of prime importance to all present and future military students, so great has been the change in the topographical aspects of Virginia during the half century that has elapsed since "the War between the States."

One of the handsomest of these maps will be appropriately framed and hung upon the walls of the "Society House."

The gift ranking next in value is a life-size portrait in oils of General Zachary Taylor ("Old Rough and Ready"), hero of the "Black Hawk," "Seminole," and "Mexican" Wars, a native of Orange county in this State and perfervid Virginian, presented to the Society by Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Nelson, of this city. It was taken from life, and some of us are old enough to pronounce it a "speaking likeness" of the sturdy old soldier, though the name of the artist is unknown to us at present.

Other gifts worthy of special mention are: (1) a photograph of the noble recumbent statue of Lee in the chapel at Lexington, executed by Edward V. Valentine, one of our Vice-Presidents, and donated by Fairfax C. Jones; (2) the original of a letter from Richard Henry Lee to Patrick Henry, dated May 13th, 1777, and the reply of Henry to Lee (also an original), dated May 28th, 1777, together with a contemporary copy of Henry's receipt for money paid for the gunpowder taken from the royal magazine at Williamsburg—all three given to us by Henry's great-grand-daughter, Mrs. Matthews Bland Harrison, of "Red Hill," the ancestral seat of the Henrys in the county of Charlotte, where "the forest-born Demosthenes" (as Byron termed the great tribune of the people) so long lived, and where he finally fell on sleep.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

(1) Volume XIX of our "Magazine" was begun and completed in 1911, and, in adherence to the settled purpose of your Committee, its contents consisted almost entirely of unpublished original documents bearing on Virginia history.

In the April number was begun the publication of the *"Minutes of the Council and General Court of Virginia,"* commencing from 1623. For years it has been our keen desire to publish this record from the original manuscripts in the Library of Congress. But various hindrances (dwelt upon in former Annual Reports) have hitherto prevented the fruition of our cherished hopes. This year, however, through the courtesy of Mr. Herbert Putnam, Chief Librarian, and of Mr. Gaillard Hunt, Custodian of Archives, of the Library of Congress, as well as through the generous services of Mr. Lothrop Withington, of London, we have been enabled to enter upon our long-deferred undertaking.

To all of these gentlemen named above the Society begs to tender its most grateful acknowledgments.

These *"Minutes"* constitute, probably, the oldest record in America that originated in any of the colonies, and are certainly the most ancient record of the proceedings of the Virginia Court or Council. Much of the original was written within the palisades of Jamestown, when the scribe plied his "grey-goose-quill," while his trusty matchlock lay within easy reach, in case of any sudden attack by wily savage. The whole is a veritable "human document" in its graphic touches, that portray so simply and yet so vividly contemporary events, and we may not impertinently add that our presentation of it follows with notable exactitude the original, and has been annotated in very thorough and minute fashion.

(2) The printing of the *"Randolph MS.* (a compilation of Seventeenth Century records destroyed long years ago), has gone on steadily, and will probably not be completed until the end of 1912 or later. This most valuable historical compilation has now reached the latter part of the XVII century, and

among its contents for this year (1911) may be found: (1) Memoranda from the Proceedings of the Council for 1684-1688; (2) a Commission to the General Court; and (3) two sets of elaborate instructions to Governor Lord Howard of Effingham.

(3) The series of *"Miscellaneous Colonial Documents,"* containing papers dealing with various periods of our colonial history and copied from certain archives in the State Library (which had been unaccountably mislaid and which were only discovered after the printed "Calendar of State Papers" had been issued) has been continued throughout the year, and include, among other items of historical value, (1) some most interesting letters written to the Governor and Council by Nathaniel Blackiston, who was, during the years 1705-1709, the "Virginia Agent" in London; (2) a memorial of the Directors controlling the erection of a lighthouse at Cape Henry in 1775; (3) two papers relating to the Transylvania Company; (4) instructions of the Fairfax County Committee to their delegates to the Virginia Convention of 1775; (5) a most interesting petition to the same Convention from the citizens of Frederick county; (6) a paper regarding the Indian War in the Carolinas (1712); (7) a list of Indian words, with their English equivalents (of about 1708); (8) a letter from John Page to William Lee in regard to the official Seal of Virginia (1777).

(4) The fourth series (comprising not only the "Abstracts" of the English Public Records made by the late W. N. Sainsbury, but full copies, as well, of the *original* papers from which these "Abstracts" were made, together with copies of documents embraced in the "McDonald" and other "Collections" of transcripts now in the State Library) has been regularly continued. The period covered is from 1665 to 1670, and as accurate information touching Virginia affairs during this very period has heretofore been lacking, the historical signification of this first-hand documentary material can scarcely be exaggerated.

The very valuable series of "General Orders" issued from Washington's headquarters during the campaigns of 1777-1778

that have been published in each number of the Magazine, contains much historical data of prime moment to students of our Revolutionary era and continues to excite great interest on the part of the general reader.

Another important contribution to our Revolutionary history (begun in the October number) is a careful bibliography of the Muster and Pay Rolls, together with the Regimental Histories, of Virginia Revoluntionary troops, compiled not only from printed works, but from MSS and minutely annotated by Messrs. C. A. Flagg and W. O. Waters, both of the Library of Congress. The first instalment of this work (to which is prefixed an admirable introduction) has been done with the trained skill that one expects from such expert bibliographers, and your Committee desires to make proper record on the pages of our "Minutes" of the gratitude entertained by the Society for this signal token of generosity on the part of these two distinguished gentlemen.

Our faithful friend, Mr. Lothrop Withington, of London, has continued during the year his intensely interesting *"Virginia Gleanings in England,"* extracted with scholarly accuracy from old English wills, and generously contributed to the Magazine by this accomplished antiquarian, who has declined to be reimbursed even for the expense necessarily incurred by him for clerical transcription. These *"Gleanings"* still constitute not merely delightful reading for even the idlest "skimmer," but shed most important side-lights on the social life of our early colonial era. Among the wills presented in this year's *"Gleanings"* are those of Dr. Lawrence Bohune, Physician-General of Virginia in 1620, whose heroic utterance, as he fell mortally wounded on the deck of Capt. Chester's ship, as she valiantly engaged two Spanish men-of-war in the West Indies, is almost identical with that of Sir Richard Grenville, immortalized by Tennyson in his stirring ballad of *"The Revenge;"* (2) the will of Governor Robert Dinwiddie, and (3) those of such well-known colonial "worthies" as Philip Ludwell (third), John Dixon, and Brett Randolph.

Outside the various series already mentioned, other contri-

butions worthy of note made to the Magazine during the year are: (1) A Diary of a journey made to Kentucky and Ohio by Henry Bartlett, of Frederick county, Virginia, in 1805; (2) Extracts from Sir Wm. Johnson's Papers, 1750 (now on file in the office of the State Archivist, Albany, N. Y.), contributed by G. A. Taylor, of London, England; (3) the Report of Col. Edmund Scarborough, touching his efforts to suppress the Quakers on the Eastern Shore (1663), in which the long-vexed contest as to the boundary line between Virginia and Maryland is dwelt upon, contributed by Mr. Thos. B. Robertson; (4) a partial list (to be completed in our next volume) of Sussex county (Va.) wills; and (5) an exceedingly able letter written in 1756 by Rev. James Maury to Philip Ludwell, of His Majesty's Council in regard to the defense of the frontiers of Virginia against the attacks of the Indians (whom he terms "those bloody instruments of French policy"), contributed by the distinguished antiquarian and historian, Worthington C. Ford, of the "*Massachusetts Historical Society.*"

The departments of Notes and Queries, Genealogy, and the reviews of new books have maintained their long-established high standard.

It may be pertinent to mention just here that most of the series of historical documents to which we have drawn your attention above (including the "*General Orders,*" "*Revolutionary Muster Rolls,*" and "*Virginia Gleanings in England*"), will be continued during the coming year, while the *Minutes of the Council and General Court*" will certainly require two, and perhaps three, years for completion. There is a chance that the "*Randolph Manuscript*" may be brought to a conclusion in 1912, but it is more probable that it will not be completed until some time in 1913.

The "*Miscellaneous Colonial Documents*" (at least, those of which we have transcripts) will, no doubt, be all printed during the next two years. When this shall have been done (and the "*Minutes*" concluded), we shall have printed practically all the important records dealing with Virginia affairs during the XVIIth century, with the exception of the "*Legislative and*

Council Journals," which our State Library proposes to publish.

When these *"Miscellaneous Colonial Documents"* have been finished, we shall resume the publication of *"Virginia Legislative Papers,"* which consisting, as they do, of "Petitions," "Remonstrances," letters, reports, and certain "intercepted communications" (sent direct to the Virginia Legislature or communicated to that body by the Governor) have proved (so far as we have published them) of the highest moment to historical students.

The "Abstracts" and the full copies of documents from the "English Public Records Office" will more than cover the period from 1670 to 1675, as presented in our next volume. As we have already published practically all the documents relating to "Bacon's Rebellion," we shall be able, because of the material now readily accessible in print, to skip over to 1677, and then go on steadily to the end of the XVIIth century. It needs no argument to impress upon the members of this Society that it is a matter of the highest importance to the true history of Virginia that all of the XVIIth century documentary evidence as to her genesis and development should be made readily accessible in print to students of that heroic time.

After the fulfillment of this patriotic purpose, we look forward to publishing a number of other Virginia documents touching the early colonial period, of which the Library of Congress has obtained accurate transcripts within the last few years.

It would be not only unseemly, but ungrateful, on our part to close this report without expressing our most sincere gratitude for contributions of exceptional value and interest wherewith they have enriched the pages of our Magazine, to Messrs. A. J. Morrison, Lothrop Withington, J. T. McAllister, G. A. Taylor, Thos. B. Robertson, W. B. Cridlin, C. A. Flagg, W. O. Waters, Beverley W. Bond, Jr., General W. H. Carter, U. S. A., W. B. Chilton, St. George T. Brooke, H. J. Eckenrode, Gerald Fothergill, Prof. J. F. Jameson, Rev. A. H. Hord, W. W. Fon-

taine, Wm. B. Morrison, N. S. Barratt, C. B. Bryant, Mrs. N. E. Clement, and Miss Lucie P. Stone.

Our sister societies deserve, too, a special word of congratulation on the good work they continue to do in historical and antiquarian fields. Especially worthy of mention is the happy culmination of the persistent struggle that the "*Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities*" has been making for years to secure possession of the "John Marshall House" in this city. Success has finally crowned their strenuous efforts, and it is the purpose of these patriotic Virginia women to restore the inside of the building exactly as it was, when, for so many years it was the home of "the great Chief Justice," and to establish there a museum of Virginia antiquities. It is also worthy of note that on the 31st day of last May the "*Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Virginia*" unveiled, with appropriate ceremonies, an impressive granite shaft (erected at their expense) to mark the site of "Henricopolis." (So called in honor of Prince Henry, son of James I, the first "Patron" of the "Virginia Company"), and to commemorate that on that spot a beginning had been made to establish the first university in the western world—a noble enterprise, that had surcly succeeded but for the frightful "Massacre of 1622."

Necrology.

"This fell-sergeant, Death," as Shakespeare tells us, "is strict in his arrest," and every year, we, especially the older of us, scan with ever-deepening sorrow and tender wistfulness of remembrance, the list of those whom we have "loved long since and lost awhile."

The list last year was of tragic length, but this year it is even more appalling. It is as follows:

Life Members.

Chapman Johnson Leigh, New York City.

Rt. Rev. Augustine Van de Vyver, S. T. D., Richmond, Virginia.

Byam Kerby Stevens, New York City.

Annual Members.

RICHARD H. BAKER, Norfolk, Virginia.
THEODORE M. BANTA, Brooklyn, N. Y.
REV. R. L. CARNE, Alexandria, Virginia.
FRANKLIN R. CARPENTER, Denver, Colorado (died 1910).
W. G. DARRIS, New York City.
HON. S. B. ELKINS, Elkins, West Virginia.
HON. CHARLES J. HUGHES, JR., Denver, Colorado.
J. F. HUNNEWELL, Charlestown, Massachusetts.
HERBERT M. NASH, M. D., Norfolk, Virginia.
CAPT. WM. W. OLD, Norfolk, Virginia.
GEORGE P. RANEY, Tallahassee, Fla.
WILLIAM O. SKELTON, Richmond, Virginia.
JUDGE BEVERLY R. WELLFORD, Richmond, Virginia.
JOHN G. WILLIAMS, Orange, Virginia.
CHARLES B. WINGO, Richmond, Virginia.
MRS. S. R. CARGILL, Mason City, Illinois.
MRS. WM. W. GORDON, Richmond, Virginia.

It has been customary during recent years for the President to make some mention of each of our deceased members, but this year, so long is the mournful list, it is manifestly impossible to do so. In any event, this could not be done in a number of cases, because of lack of personal knowledge, and an expression of perfunctory grief is usually nothing but repulsive hypocrisy. Some of these, unknown to us, were yet men of national reputation, as Stephen B. Elkins, United States Senator and Secretary of War in Harrison's Cabinet, and Charles J. Hughes (an alumnus, as was Elkins, of the University of Missouri), who rose through many offices of public trust and responsibility, to become United States Senator from Colorado. Even more distinguished in the eyes of men-of-letters was James Frothingham Hunnewell, whose literary achievement (antiquarian and historical) it would be impertinent to dwell upon in this presence.

Of the three "Life Members," we can at least speak briefly, and of two of them, as Hamlet hath it, "by the card."

Chapman Johnson Leigh, though he spent but few years of his life in Virginia after he grew to manhood, was born and educated in the "Old Dominion," and ever cherished for his mother-State that passionate devotion and fealty which God seems to have implanted in the breasts of all Virginians "to the manner born" that belonged to his generation. What a host of memories of the time, which many still hold to have been Virginia's "Golden Age," his mere name evokes! For in that name were blended those of two "Virginia Worthies" of the highest and noblest type. Some of us here, though a scant score of years his juniors, still recall him as he was in the full flush of attractive manhood—somewhat grave, with a certain aloofness due to shyness, yet gracious with an old-fashioned politeness that has been swept away by "the shabby tide of Progress." Some few, indeed, of us were present at his wedding, when he married the radiant beauty of "Lowland Virginia," Anne Carter, of "Shirley," on the James—and surely none of those few can ever forget that brilliant assemblage of courtly squires and high-bred women who gathered that night under the hospitable roof-tree of her father, filling with jocund mirth and happy laughter the stately drawing-rooms, from whose panelled walls looked down upon us a brave array of gallants in doublets of crimson and gold and smiling beauties with powder on hair and a patch on chin (not a few "Lelys" and "Sir Godfreys" among them), and then a sudden hush, as the young couple entered, and standing before the parson, plighted troth in the very room, where nigh seventy years agone, another fair Anne Carter (great aunt of the bride), had wed dashing "Light Horse Harry" Lee, little dreaming that she was destined to become the mother of the foremost soldier of English-speaking folk.

Chapman Leigh was, as you all know, son of the brilliant Benjamin Watkins Leigh, once United States Senator from this Commonwealth, and reckoned, though young in years, as, perhaps, in many ways the best-equipped representative in the famous "Virginia Convention of 1829-30." His fame as an orator and keen debater had been already won, but he was

destined to find in that Convention, in the person of Chapman Johnson, his old college-mate at Williamsburg "a foeman worthy of his steel." Sharply and often that steel rang out in the heated debates, for they were the conspicuous leaders of the two opposing factions, and many looked for a severance of their long friendship; but the intimacy that had sprung up in what Shakespeake calls "the May-morn of their youth," was never dimmed for a moment, and Leigh, at a later time, put the seal upon that long friendship by naming his son for his old antagonist.

Certainly, if there be aught in a name, Chapman Johnson Leigh should have been a conspicuous figure in Virginia public life, but his tastes were all opposed to a political career, and, though a man of fine judgment and of marked acumen in business affairs, he preferred to lead the life of a quiet gentleman, "far from the madding crowd," and, having achieved a comfortable fortune, devoted himself to his books and to foreign travel.

He rounded out his four-score, but to the very end his love for his mother-State, her history, and traditions, knew no shadow of turning.

Quite the reverse in his tastes as to mingling with "all sorts and conditions of men," was the Rt. Rev. Augustine Van de Vyver, Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia. He possessed, indeed, a real "genius for friendship," and when merely a poor parish-priest, might have claimed with "noble Timon" —"You mistake my fortunes; I am wealthy in my friends." Those who were not members of his communion, yet who admired him and had much talk with him, were struck chiefly by his breadth of view and fairness ("the sweet reasonableness and light" of Matthew Arnold) and by his charming deference to his adversaries in all matters of discussion. There, he never claimed the authority or protection of dogma, nor hid himself behind "priestly petticoats," but stepped out into the broad arena and more than held his own with rare dialectical skill. As for "heat of argument," no adversary could even withstand his mellow laughter

and the twinkle of his kindly eyes. There was in him indeed, a delightful blending of the simple, jovial *curé* of some village in his native Belgium, knowing little beyond his well-thumbed Breviary and the names and needs of every member of his flock (so delightfully portrayed by the magic pencil of Daudet), and of the highly-educated ecclesiastic, who had at his finger-tips the whole history of the tenets of the ancient communion that claimed his devotion and single-minded faith. He was blessed beyond most Episcopal dignitaries with a saving sense of humor, loved a good story, and was a delightful *raconteur* himself, his French accent, which he never altogether overcame, adding a nameless piquancy to his bright and easy talk. Even in graver discussion, he seemed to have learned instinctively that persuading is of far deeper moment than merely convincing.

Those here to-night who witnessed only a few months ago the imposing pageant of his obsequies, where were gathered in and about the Cathedral a vast array of "the lofty and the lowly," who had come to do honor not so much to the prelate as to the *man,* could harbor, no doubt, that one who could compel such a passion of personal grief, must have knit these men and women, aye, even children, to him by intimate ties that could only have been wrought by years of generous beneficences, tender sympathies, and unselfish ministrations, and must have felt assured that his "anointment" was not alone that of pious human hands, but, in old Isaiah's phrase, "the anointment of the Spirit of the Lord to preach good tidings to the poor," to serve God humbly, and, as the Good Book elsewhere tells us, to find pure religion and undefiled in visiting the fatherless and the widows and in binding up the wounds of the broken hearted.

In the contemplation of a life so nobly spent in deeds of pious service and of unaffected self-abnegation, all differences as to creeds must needs be forgotten, and, whether Protestant or Jew or Catholic, we can all breathe over the bier of this Vicar of God and devout Christian the words of the "Mass for the Dead," contained in his own stately and ancient ritual:

"Requiem aeternam dona ei, Domine; et lux perpetua luceat ei. In memoria aeterna erit justus."

Of Byam K. Stevens, the third of our "Life Members," who, on the 12th of December, 1911,

> Passed into a clearer day
> Than our poor twilight dawn on earth,

there is not much that we can say, owing to lack of personal knowledge. Yet he is one whom we, at least, should ever hold in grateful remembrance, he having been for years past an unostentatious, yet liberal, benefactor of this Society.

Why this was so, unless, indeed, because of his enthusiastic interest in antiquarian research, has never been known to any one of us. Blessed with an ample fortune, achieved by his own sagacity as a man of affairs, he retired nearly thirty years ago and spent the evening of his life in travel and in fostering charitable and philanthropic work of every kind. He was also a keen antiquarian and took a prominent part in the activities of our sister association, the *"New York Historical Society."*

So far as can be ascertained, he never saw, nor was ever seen by, a single officer or member of our Society, yet regularly, with each recurring year, he sent us, with a few kindly words, a most welcome reminder, in the shape of a liberal cheque, of his keen interest in our work, which amounts have always been carried over to our "Permanent Fund." The impression conveyed by his letters was that he was one of those unobtrusive men, who prefer to "do good by stealth," and who, in the spirit of the true antiquarian and scholar, knew no degrees of latitude or longitude in his liberal benefactions to further genuine historical investigation.

Of the others, both time and the limits of this report (already too extended) forbid more than briefest mention, even in the case of the few (out of the many) well known to us.

But all of you must have noted the fact that our sister city of Norfolk has been specially stricken in the loss, since our last meeting, of three of her most distinguished citizens, all graduates of the University of Virginia—Richard H. Baker,

for above forty years a steadfast friend of this Society—a simple, modest gentleman, whose native kindliness of heart and gracious manners of "the old school" won for him the respect and affection of the whole community in which he was born and bred, and who, in his long judicial career, maintained the highest and best traditions of the Virginia bar; William W. Old, a Master of Arts of the University, who immediately on attaining his degree in June of 1861, went to "the front" and, though several times desperately wounded, served to the very end of our momentous struggle for independence. At the close of the war, he became the law partner of Capt. Richard Walke, Jr., (also a Master of Arts of the University and one of the most superb young artillery officers of A. P. Hill's Corps, of the "Army of Northern Virginia," as he was also one of the most acute and learned lawyers of his time)—the partnership subsisting until the tragic death of the latter at sea some fifteen years ago.

Many positions of civic honor came to Capt. Old while he continued in the full practice of his profession, and it is only simple truth to declare that his was the good fortune to be equal, in fullest measure, to every responsibility imposed upon him by his fellow-citizens. He was, at the same time, conspicuous in well nigh every undertaking of the communion to which he belonged, and his practical suggestions and ripe judgment will long be missed in the "Councils" of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

Yet another to be mourned of the denizens of "the City by the Sea" is Dr. Herbert M. Nash, known throughout "Tidewater" Virginia (like Dr. Elliotson, to whom Thackeray dedicated *"Pendennis"*) as "the good physician." He, too, was a fine soldier, as well as a most skillful surgeon, and followed to the end the fortunes of the thrice-glorious army to which he belonged. Like Capt. Old, he was active in all church work, and was long a vestryman of old "St. Paul's," Norfolk. For forty years he enjoyed a large and lucrative practice, and in all that time, when called upon to attend patients on Sunday, he invariably paid over all his fees into the "Poor Fund." And

beyond all else, let it be set down here that, in addition to never sending a bill for attending the poorer classes in his community, he had the happy tactfulness, which only a thoroughly kind heart could possess, of making the recipient of his free service feel that there was no question of obligation, but that it was to *him* a genuine privilege to minister to their needs.

Of two others, citizens of Richmond, would I fain speak, did time allow—one gone to his rest, full of years, blessed to the very end by "that which should accompany old age, as honor, love, obedience, troops of friends," Judge Beverly R. Wellford, the finest type of the old Virginia gentleman, with his courtly manners and delicious prejudices, in which many of us heartily shared; the other, struck down in the very heydey of his young manhood, William O. Skelton, who was "the life" of every party wherever he chanced to be, and who never forgot, in all the hurry of our modern so-called "civilization," the *"noblesse oblige"* of race and rearing, and whose winning smile, high-bred courtesy and humorous sallies will long be remembered and missed in the clubs and drawing-rooms of Richmond.

So ends these halting tributes to some of our dead for 1911.

In conclusion, reviewing dispassionately what has been accomplished during the year, even the coldest must allow to us a legitimate pride in the solid achievement that has been ours. That the achievement has been fully up to any that has gone before, will not be questioned by those who know the history of the Society during all the years of its existence.

As bibliophiles well know, the earliest of our separate publications, and later on, our "COLLECTIONS," fetch in all the book-marts of English-speaking folk prices ranging from double to, in many cases, ten-fold the amount at which they were originally published. But our more recent publications are far more scientifically presented, and it is no exaggeration to declare that, if we had nothing else to show in the way of permanent achievement than the nineteen volumes of our *"Virginia Magazine of History and Biography,"* those volumes in themselves would be reckoned by historical students of "the

modern school" as more than a fair equivalent for all the zeal, time, and money expended in maintaining the Society at a high level from its establishment, nearly eighty years ago, under John Marshall as its first President."

To all the officials of the Society your Committee desires to express its deep appreciation of their single-minded zeal and fidelity in the performance of their duties, and, in an especial degree, are our obligations due to our accomplished Corresponding Secretary, whose untiring activity, joined to his profound learning touching the history of Virginia in all its phases from her foundation to the beginning of the present century, has been the chief cause that our "*Magazine*" holds to-day an assured rank among the foremost publications in its special field.

The chief thing lacking to us now is an adequate "Permanent Fund," which some of our richer citizens of high public spirit may yet enable us to secure.

At any rate, we approach another year of strenuous endeavour with the ascription for our Society of a great English poet: *"May her future copy fair her past."*

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. Gordon McCabe,
President.

January 27th, 1912.

At the conclusion of the report a vote of thanks was tendered the President and, as usual, the report was ordered to be printed in the Magazine.

The Corresponding Secretary stated that shortly before the Society had convened in annual meeting, a portrait of the late Conway Robinson, Esq., had been received from his family.

On motion, the thanks of the Society were ordered to be sent to the donors of the portrait of a gentleman who long held such a leading position in the Society and who did so much for Virginia history.

The President then stated that the next business was the election of officers.

It was moved that a Nominating Committee be appointed.

The motion being adopted, the President appointed Mr. Morgan P. Robinson and Dr. H. J. Eckenrode a committee.

The Committee retired, and when they returned the Chairman, Mr. Robinson, stated that his Committee recommended that all the officers and members of the Executive Committee be renominated.

The officers and members of the Committee were nominated as follows and were unanimously re-elected:

President,—W. Gordon McCabe.

Vice-Presidents,—Archer Anderson, Edward V. Valentine and Lyon G. Tyler.

Corresponding Secretary and Librarian,—William G. Stanard.

Recording Secretary,—David C. Richardson.

Treasurer,—Robert A. Lancaster, Jr.

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There being no further business, on motion, the meeting adjourned.

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OF THE

Virginia Historical Society

JANUARY, 1912.

———o———

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and, ex-officio, the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurer.

The Annual Meeting of this Society will be held in January, 1912. The Proceedings of the Meeting will be published in the April Magazine.

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